



FEMA

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DISASTER NEWS

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DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS OPEN IN BERRIEN AND WAYNE COUNTIES

EAST LANSING, MI -- Federal and State recovery officials have announced the opening today of Disaster Recovery Centers in Berrien and Wayne counties to serve homeowners, renters and business people who have already called to register for assistance.

A Disaster Recovery Center in Dearborn Heights has been in operation from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily since Wednesday, July 7. A second Wayne County center opened today from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at the Detroit City Airport, 11499 Conner Street. After today, the Detroit center will be open Sunday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Berrien County center also opened from 12 noon to 6 p.m. today in the South County Building at 1205 N. Front Street in Niles and, starting tomorrow, July 13, will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

“You are not required to visit a Disaster Recovery Center to get answers to your questions after you have applied for disaster assistance. You can get further information by calling the FEMA Helpline at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**,” explained Federal Coordinating Officer Marianne C. Jackson.

State Coordinating Officer, F/Lt. Ralph J. Hobrat of the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division, stated, “You can visit whatever center is convenient regardless of where you live. Disaster experts at each center will be available to answer your questions about assistance, help you complete your U.S. Small Business Administration loan application and give you information about how to reduce future disaster damage.”

Recovery officials remind renters, homeowners and business owners who suffered damage or loss in the severe weather that occurred between May 20 and 24 to apply for assistance by calling toll-free, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, or TTY 1-800-4562-7585 for those with hearing or speech impairment.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

[NOTE TO EDITOR: A list of the 19 disaster-declared counties is available upon request.]

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